STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of CORRECTIONS

# THE GUIDANCE CENTER OF THE ADULT AUTHORITY

# PREFACE

Relatives and friends should know about the constructive nature of the prison program. Their kindness and loyalty to the man are important. Cheerful personal visits are very helpful. Encouraging and hopeful letters keep up the man's spirit. On the contrary it is very inadvisable for relatives or friends to write him of troubles at home about which he is powerless to do anything, or to harp continually and unreasonably on the unfortunate effects of his crime. Nothing is accomplished thereby except his unhappiness. This may seriously interfere with his progress toward self-improvement and success on parole and thereafter.

Mr. Richard A. McGee, the Director of Corrections, and Messrs. Walter A. Gordon, Lewis Drucker, and Ervis W. Lester, the members of the Adult Authority of California, are sincerely interested in the future welfare of men sent to prison. The public is also concerned because practically all of these men are to return to society.

This little booklet, which has been illustrated by a talented inmate, gives you an idea of the methods of study of the men in the Guidance Center* of the Adult Authority. They spend their first two months there. The programs for the man in the institution and on parole are strongly influenced by the recommdations of the Guidance Center staff.

This pictorial account of its work was compiled by the staff of the Guidance Center. They and the personnel of the California Institution for Men, Folsom and San Quentin State prisons, and of the State Parole Office, need the helpful cooperation of relatives and friends in their efforts to further the man's well being in prison and, of course, his satisfactory adjustment when he returns to society.

NORMAN FENTON

April 22, 1945

*Created by Section 5079, Penal Code, establishing a Psychiatric and Diagnostic Clinic.

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# The GUIDANCE CENTER

## Part 1 – THE PROGRAM STARTS

WHILE in THE COUNTY JAIL AWAITING TRANSPORTATION to PRISON A MAN'S SPIRIT IS at ITS LOWEST EBB.

THE GUIDANCE CENTER of THE ADULT AUTHORITY WAS ESTABLISHED by THE DIRECTOR of CORRECTIONS. THE STAFF BELIEVE THAT if A MAN IS to BENEFIT FROM IMPRISONMENT, the SHOCK of GOING to PRISON MUST NOT COMPLETELY DESTROY HIS SPIRIT. HE MUST RETAIN A FUNDAMENTAL FAITH in HIMSELF and HOPE for HIS FUTURE.

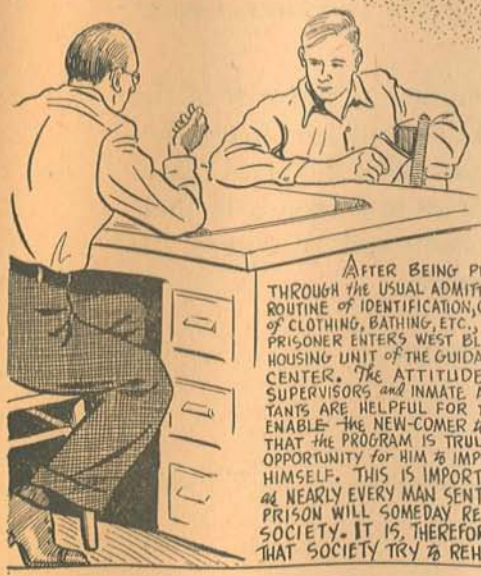
THE GENUINENESS of HIS DESIRE for SELF-IMPROVEMENT and HIS CAPACITY for SELF-CONTROL and SELF-DIRECTION, WILL LARGELY DETERMINE WHETHER HE WILL BECOME A GOOD CITIZEN.

ENTERING THE GUIDANCE CENTER the MAN is GREETED WITH ENCOURAGEMENT. HE is TOLD FRANKLY that MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM in PRISON WILL be DETERMINED by HIS ATTITUTUDE and DESIRE FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT.

THE GUIDANCE CENTER, THROUGH the COURTESY of THE SHERIFFS, PLACES A BRIEF BULLETIN in THE HANDS of THE NEWLY CONVICTED MAN WHICH ANSWERS MANY PRACTICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT PRISON.

THE BULLETIN STRESSES the OPPORTUNITIES in PRISON for PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT, EXPLAINING, AS WELL, PRISON REGULATIONS ON MAIL, VISITS, CLOTHING, ETC.

THE CALIFORNIA PRISONS are PRESENTED to THE MAN AS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, STRICT but HUMANE RATHER THAN CRUEL PLACES of CONFINEMENT.



AFTER BEING PUT THROUGH the USUAL ADMITTANCE ROUTINE of IDENTIFICATION, CHANGE of CLOTHING, BATHING, ETC., the PRISONER ENTERS WEST BLOCK, HOUSING UNIT of THE GUIDANCE CENTER. THE ATTITUDES of SUPERVISORS and INMATE ASSISTANTS ARE HELPFUL for THEY ENABLE the NEW-COMER to FEEL THAT the PROGRAM IS TRULY AN OPPORTUNITY for HIM to IMPROVE HIMSELF. THIS IS IMPORTANT as NEARLY EVERY MAN SENT to PRISON WILL SOMEDAY RETURN to SOCIETY. IT IS, THEREFORE, IMPERATIVE THAT SOCIETY TRY to REHABILITATE HIM.

Reek

# The GUIDANCE CENTER
## Part 2 - THE FIRST DAYS

The STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST MAKES KNOWN a MAN'S KNOWLEDGE in COMMON SCHOOL SUBJECTS--- READING, ARITHMETIC, SPELLING, HISTORY, LITERATURE, ETC. This OFFERS A SATISFACTORY MEANS OF PLANNING HIS FURTHER EDUCATION in PRISON.

KNOWING THAT MEN ENTERING PRISON, LOW in MORALE and SPIRITS, WILL SOME DAY RETURN to SOCIETY, THE GUIDANCE CENTER STRIVES to DEVELOP AN INMATE'S GOOD TRAITS THROUGH EDUCATION, WISE COUNSELING, RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, MEDICAL and PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT and TRAINING in LEISURE TIME PURSUITS. The ANTIQUATED SYSTEM of MASS DISCIPLINE that IGNORES INDIVIDUALS is REPLACED by MODERN METHODS of PERSONAL GUIDANCE. THIS DEMANDS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION of THE MAN as A PERSON.

IN ORDER to TREAT A MAN AS AN INDIVIDUAL a CORRECTIVE AGENCY MUST KNOW HIM THOROUGHLY. The ADULT AUTHORITY INSISTS THAT EACH MAN BE DEALT WITH in THE GUIDANCE CENTER AS A PERSON WITH FEELINGS, HOPES and AMBITIONS AS WELL AS A MERE NUMBERED PRISONER WHO HAS COMMITTED an OFFENCE AGAINST the STATE. TO DO THIS, A MAN MUST be STUDIED. HIS PERSONAL BACKGROUND — HOW HE GREW UP and WHAT INFLUENCED HIM to CRIME MUST be KNOWN. The REASON for HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE MUST be SOUGHT OUT, FOR ONLY in THAT APPROACH WILL HIS PERSONAL PROBLEMS and SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES be UNDERSTOOD.

The PHYSICAL EXAMINATION COVERS the MAJOR ORGANS of THE BODY, SUCH as THE LUNGS and HEART, and INCLUDES TESTS of THE BLOOD and SENSE ORGANS. The DOCTOR CORRELATES the PATIENT'S PREVIOUS HEALTH HISTORY WITH PRESENT FINDINGS. THIS EXAMINATION IS FOLLOWED by MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR the MAN in ACCORDANCE WITH HIS NEEDS.

VARIOUS TESTS of MECHANICAL ABILITY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED to GET A LINE ON ACTUAL ABILITIES. MUSCULAR COORDINATION IS TESTED, SUCH AS THE RAPIDITY AND EASE WITH WHICH the EYES AND THE HANDS FUNCTION TOGETHER. THE KUDER PREFERENCE TEST, AMONG OTHERS, HELPS THE STAFF to SOUND OUT the MAN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD A FEW GENERAL AREAS of VOCATIONAL INTEREST.

ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS ARE RECEIVED FROM COUNTY AGENCIES, THE SOCIOLOGIST EXPLAINS WHY OTHER INFORMATION FROM FRIENDS or RELATIVES, WHO KNOW the MAN, IS NEEDED. INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ARE SELECTED by THE MAN HIMSELF.

DURING GROUP CONFERENCES THE SOCIOLOGIST ENCOURAGES the MEN to ASK QUESTIONS and MAKE COMMENTS in ORDER to GAIN THEIR INTERESTED COOPERATION.

G.C. CORRESPONDENCE WITH FAMILY OR EMPLOYERS DOES NOT BEAR the PRISON POST MARK or ADDRESS.

# The GUIDANCE CENTER

PART 3

## Personal History

IRRITATION and UNFAIRNESS INSTEAD of LOVE and FRIENDLY INTEREST in THE CHILDHOOD HOME ARE FOUND in MANY CASES of MEN in PRISON.

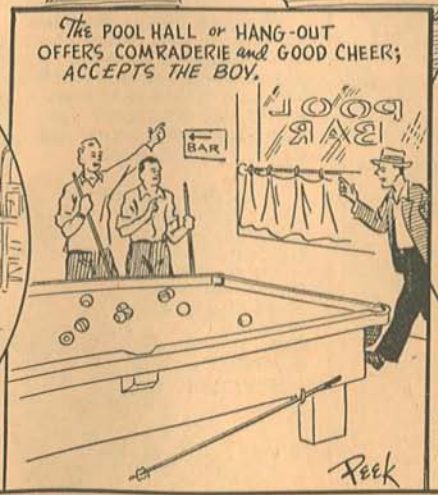
The STORY OF A MAN'S PERSONAL LIFE USUALLY OFFERS CLUES to AN UNDERSTANDING of THE PROBABLE CAUSES of HIS PRESENT TROUBLES. In the SEARCH FOR THIS EXPLANATION OF HIS UNFORTUNATE BEHAVIOR, the SYMPATHETIC INTEREST of THE SOCIOLOGIST FINDS A COUNTERPART in THE DESIRE OF THE MAN FOR KNOWLEDGE of HOW HE GOT THIS WAY and WHY HE DID the THINGS WHICH BROUGHT HIM to PRISON.

CLOSE RELATIVES and GOOD FRIENDS are QUESTIONED by MAIL ABOUT the MAN'S LIFE HISTORY. THESE INFORMANTS WHO ARE INTERESTED in THE WELFARE of THE MAN give ACCOUNTS WHICH MAY CONTRAST WITH the IMPERSONAL OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS of THE COURT HEARINGS and THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE MEN by THE COUNTY AUTHORITIES.

REPLIES of RELATIVES and FRIENDS ARE VERY HELPFUL in GIVING the STAFF of THE GUIDANCE CENTER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PAST and PRESENT NEEDS of THE MAN and ABOUT THOSE BETTER QUALITIES WHICH MUST BE TAPPED in PLANS for THE MAN'S REHABILITATION. The CHILDHOOD and ADOLESCENT EXPERIENCES OF THE INMATE are DESCRIBED by THOSE WHO KNEW HIM DURING THESE SENSITIVE YEARS. The ACCOUNTS of ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS in THE MAN'S ADULT LIFE are ALSO GIVEN in THESE REPORTS. The SOCIOLOGIST USES THE INFORMATION FROM ALL SOURCES, OFFICIALS, FRIENDS, EMPLOYERS and RELATIVES in PULLING TOGETHER A WELL-ROUNDED UNDERSTANDING of THE MAN. These SKETCHES PORTRAY A PERSONAL HISTORY. The DETAILS DO NOT REPRESENT A PARTICULAR MAN BUT ITEMS FROM SEVERAL CASES.

TRUANCY MAY HAVE BEEN the FIRST STEP TOWARD PRISON.

The FAMILY LACKS PATIENCE and SYMPATHY for THE YOUTH; REJECT HIM....




The POOL HALL or HANG-OUT OFFERS COMRADERIE and GOOD CHEER; ACCEPTS THE BOY.

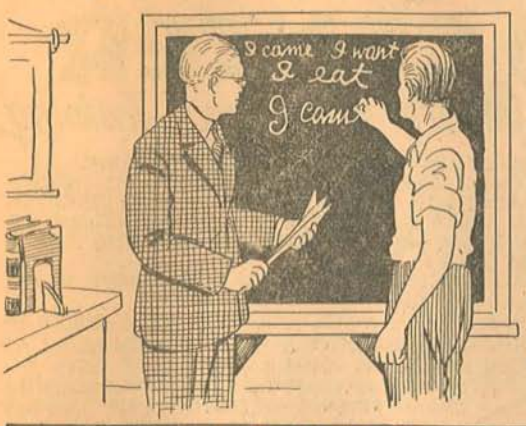
Peek

The COMMUNITY INFLUENCES TOWARD DELINQUENCY RATHER THAN WHOLESOME SURROUNDINGS in the HOME OR the SCHOOL OR the CHURCH DETERMINE the YOUTH'S CHOICE of A WAY of LIFE.

# The GUIDANCE CENTER

## PART 4 The School Program

SOME OF THE MEN NEED TO BE TAUGHT TO READ and WRITE.

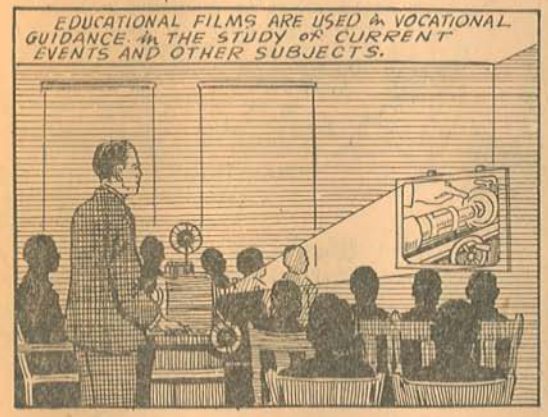



DURING THEIR STAY in THE GUIDANCE CENTER, the MEN SPEND FOUR WEEKS in SCHOOL EITHER DURING the FORENOON OR AFTERNOON. EACH MAN IS PLACED in A CLASS WHICH FITS HIS PREPARATION and ABILITIES. THERE IS USUALLY A GROUP WHO HAVE NEVER LEARNED to READ or WRITE. ANOTHER GROUP is GIVEN WORK in SUBJECTS of THE PRIMARY GRADES, and ANOTHER IN the MIDDLE GRADES. HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE ESPECIALLY INTERESTING COURSES in THE MORE ADVANCED SUBJECTS.

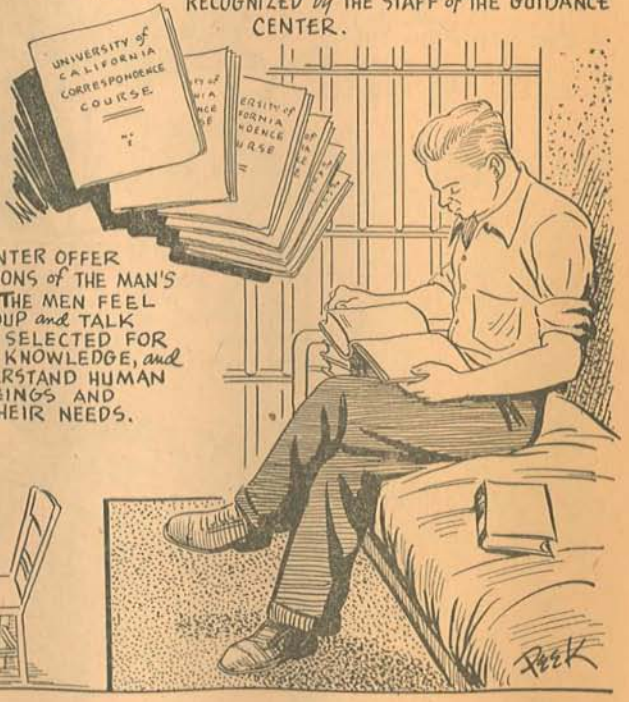
THE DIRECTOR of CORRECTIONS and THE ADULT AUTHORITY ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED in PROVIDING ALL MEN WITH ENCOURAGEMENT and HELP in THEIR EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT.

BECAUSE of THE OPPORTUNITIES for SELF-IMPROVEMENT, A MAN in PRISON in CALIFORNIA MAY GRADUATE FROM the ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OR THE HIGH SCHOOL. HE THEN RECEIVES A DIPLOMA FROM the STATE DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION.

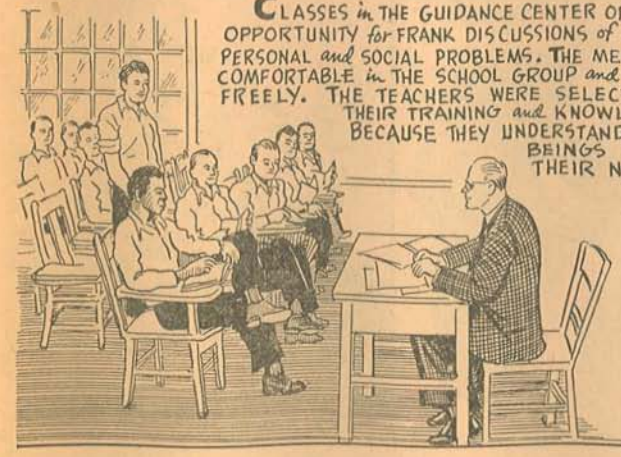
EDUCATIONAL FILMS ARE USED in VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE in THE STUDY of CURRENT EVENTS AND OTHER SUBJECTS.



MANY MEN STUDY at NIGHT in THEIR CELLS ON WORK SUGGESTED by THEIR TEACHERS. SOME ENROLL in CORRESPONDENCE COURSES in COLLEGE SUBJECTS OFFERED by THE UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA. OTHERS TAKE COURSES PREPARED by THE EDUCATIONAL DEPT. of SAN QUENTIN. THE SINCERITY of THE MAN'S DESIRE for SELF-IMPROVEMENT IS RECOGNIZED by THE STAFF of THE GUIDANCE CENTER.




CLASSES in THE GUIDANCE CENTER OFFER OPPORTUNITY for FRANK DISCUSSIONS of THE MAN'S PERSONAL and SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THE MEN FEEL COMFORTABLE in THE SCHOOL GROUP and TALK FREELY. THE TEACHERS WERE SELECTED FOR THEIR TRAINING and KNOWLEDGE, and BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND HUMAN BEINGS AND THEIR NEEDS.



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# The GUIDANCE CENTER

PART 5

## Before Vocational Training

PATRIOTISM CAUSES the MEN to WORK HARD in THE WAR INDUSTRIES. ONE THIRD of THEM HAVE BEEN IN the MILITARY SERVICE and ALL HAVE RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN the ARMED FORCES.

SUCCESS ON PAROLE IS LARGELY DETERMINED BY VOCATIONAL COMPETENCE and WILLINGNESS TO WORK. CAPABILITY in BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, OR IN ROUTINE OR SKILLED WORK in INDUSTRY, OR IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS to WHICH the MAN goes UPON RELEASE, IS REQUIRED IF HE IS to MAKE GOOD in SOCIETY.

MANY MEN WHO COME to PRISON HAVE NEVER LEARNED to WORK.

WHATEVER the MAN'S VOCATIONAL BACKGROUND, the PRISON SYSTEM NEEDS to KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT HIS WORK HISTORY AS POSSIBLE. RESULTS of TESTS of VOCATIONAL APTITUDE and INTEREST and INQUIRIES AMONG FRIENDS and EMPLOYERS ARE COMBINED WITH OBSERVATIONS OF the MAN'S ATTITUDE on WORK PROJECTS. IN the GUIDANCE CENTER, the EMPHASIS IS UPON the STUDY OF the MAN'S EFFORT AND ALERTNESS.

IN the PRISON to WHICH the MAN IS SENT THERE IS a WIDE VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES for VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

A GOOD MEASURE of MANUAL DEXTERITY AND LEARNING ABILITY IN MECHANICAL WORK IS OBTAINED FROM THE OBSERVATION of MEN in THE CLOTHING PROJECT.

WITH PICK AND SHOVEL, GUIDANCE CENTER MEN TORE DOWN A CENTURY-OLD DUNGEON-TYPE of CELL BLOCK.

THE WEED CREW DOES MUCH FOR the BEAUTIFICATION of THE GROUNDS.

RENOVATION of MESS HALL TABLES TESTS A MAN'S PATIENCE AND WILLINGNESS to WORK.

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# The GUIDANCE CENTER

## PART 6 Study of Attitudes & Traits

The MENTAL TESTS MEASURE CERTAIN GENERAL CAPACITIES SUCH AS the ABILITY to LEARN SOME of THE SCHOOL SUBJECTS. THIS INFORMATION MAKES POSSIBLE MORE SENSIBLE PLANNING FOR the MAN'S FUTURE.

The ENTIRE STAFF IS CONCERNED WITH the DESCRIPTION of THE MAN AS A HUMAN BEING IN ORDER to PLAN FOR HIS FUTURE WITH the GREATEST LIKELIHOOD of HELPING HIM to SUCCEED UPON RETURN TO SOCIETY.

THE REPORTS of THE PSYCHIATRIST AND PSYCHOLOGIST ARE ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT. THEY SEEK to KNOW the MAN AS A PERSON -- HOW HE FEELS ABOUT HIMSELF, WHETHER HE UNDERSTANDS WHY HE GOT into TROUBLE, HOW WELL HE ACCEPTS HIMSELF, HOW HE GETS ALONG WITH OTHERS, AND WHAT HIS ATTITUDES ARE TOWARD LIFE in GENERAL.

THESE and MANY OTHER CRUCIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY are STUDIED.

IN THE INTERVIEW, the PSYCHIATRIST ATTEMPTS to UNDERSTAND THE MAN AND to HELP HIM to GAIN INSIGHT INTO HIS OWN PERSONALITY AND HIS NEEDS for WHOLESOME LIVING.

IN THE SCHOOL, THE TEACHERS WORK WITH THE MEN AS A GROUP in TRYING to GIVE THEM INSIGHT INTO THE CAUSE of THEIR TROUBLES.

THEY USE A TEXTBOOK PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR THE GUIDANCE CENTER MEN, ENTITLED, "WHAT'S AHEAD FOR YOU?" AND A COMPANION WORD-BOOK CALLED, "PLANS AND PROGRESS", WHICH CONTAINS LESSONS FOR the MEN TO WORK ON IN THEIR CELLS at NIGHT.

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# PART 7 Life in the GUIDANCE CENTER

THE GUIDANCE CENTER IS AN INSTITUTION WITHIN SAN QUENTIN. THE MEN ARE HOUSED, ONE TO A CELL, IN THE WEST BLOCK. EACH MAN IS REQUIRED TO KEEP HIS CELL CLEAN AND ORDERLY. BESIDES A COT AND BEDCLOTHING THE CELLS CONTAIN A WASH BOWL, TOILET, SHELVES AND A WOODEN STOOL.

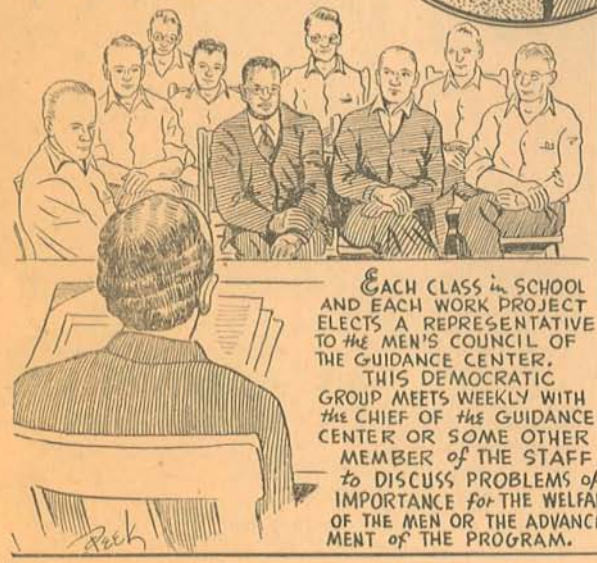
RECENTLY, THROUGH THE WELFARE FUNDS RAISED BY SAN QUENTIN INMATES, RADIO EARPHONES WERE PROVIDED FOR ALL MEN, AND SELECTED PROGRAMS ON THE MAJOR NETWORKS ARE PIPED INTO THE CELLS.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES ARE ATTENDED BY MEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR OWN PREFERENCES.

MEN WHO HAVE MONEY ON DEPOSIT MAY PURCHASE FOOD, TOILET ARTICLES, WRITING PAPER, STAMPS AND OTHER ITEMS IN THE CANTEEN.

TOBACCO IS SUPPLIED BY THE PRISON.

A CIRCULATING LIBRARY OF WELL-CHOSEN BOOKS IS HOUSED IN THE WEST BLOCK AND USED BY MOST OF THE MEN.



EACH CLASS IN SCHOOL AND EACH WORK PROJECT ELECTS A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEN'S COUNCIL OF THE GUIDANCE CENTER.

THIS DEMOCRATIC GROUP MEETS WEEKLY WITH THE CHIEF OF THE GUIDANCE CENTER OR SOME OTHER MEMBER OF THE STAFF TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF IMPORTANCE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE MEN OR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM.

THE GUIDANCE CENTER HAS ITS OWN RECREATION YARD WHERE THE MEN CAN GET OUT IN THE SUN AND EXERCISE.

FOOD IN AMPLE AMOUNT, ACCORDING TO MEALS PLANNED BY THE DIETICIAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, IS PROVIDED IN THE GUIDANCE CENTER MESS HALL. THIS IS KNOWN AS THE AQUARIUM CAFE, SINCE THE SLANG FOR NEW MEN IN PRISON IS "FISH".

# The GUIDANCE CENTER

## THE USE of THE FINDINGS IN THE CASE STUDY.

PART 8

The ADULT AUTHORITY CONSIDERS THE WORK OF THE GUIDANCE CENTER AS the HUB OF the TREATMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT of CORRECTIONS.

The RECOMMENDATIONS OF the STAFF FORM THE CENTRAL FOUNDATION of THE MAN'S PROGRAM in PRISON and ON PAROLE.

### The STAFF CONFERENCE OF THE GUIDANCE CENTER

PLANS FOR THE MAN'S ADJUSTMENT ARE A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STAFF of THE GUIDANCE CENTER.

IN THE CONFERENCE ON THE MAN'S CASE, ALL INFORMATION ABOUT HIM AS A PERSON AND ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS IS CONSIDERED.

### The CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE OF THE INSTITUTION

PLANS THE DETAILS of THE MAN'S PROGRAM. IN DOING SO THE COMMITTEE HAS COPIES of THE GUIDANCE CENTER REPORT BEFORE IT.

### The HEARING BEFORE THE ADULT AUTHORITY.

SIX MONTHS OR A YEAR AFTER HIS ADMISSION to THE GUIDANCE CENTER, THE MAN IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE ADULT AUTHORITY FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

HIS PROGRESS IS STUDIED IN RELATION to THE PLANS FOR HIM PREPARED BY THE STAFF.

THE FIXING of HIS TERM MAY BE MADE THEN OR LATER.

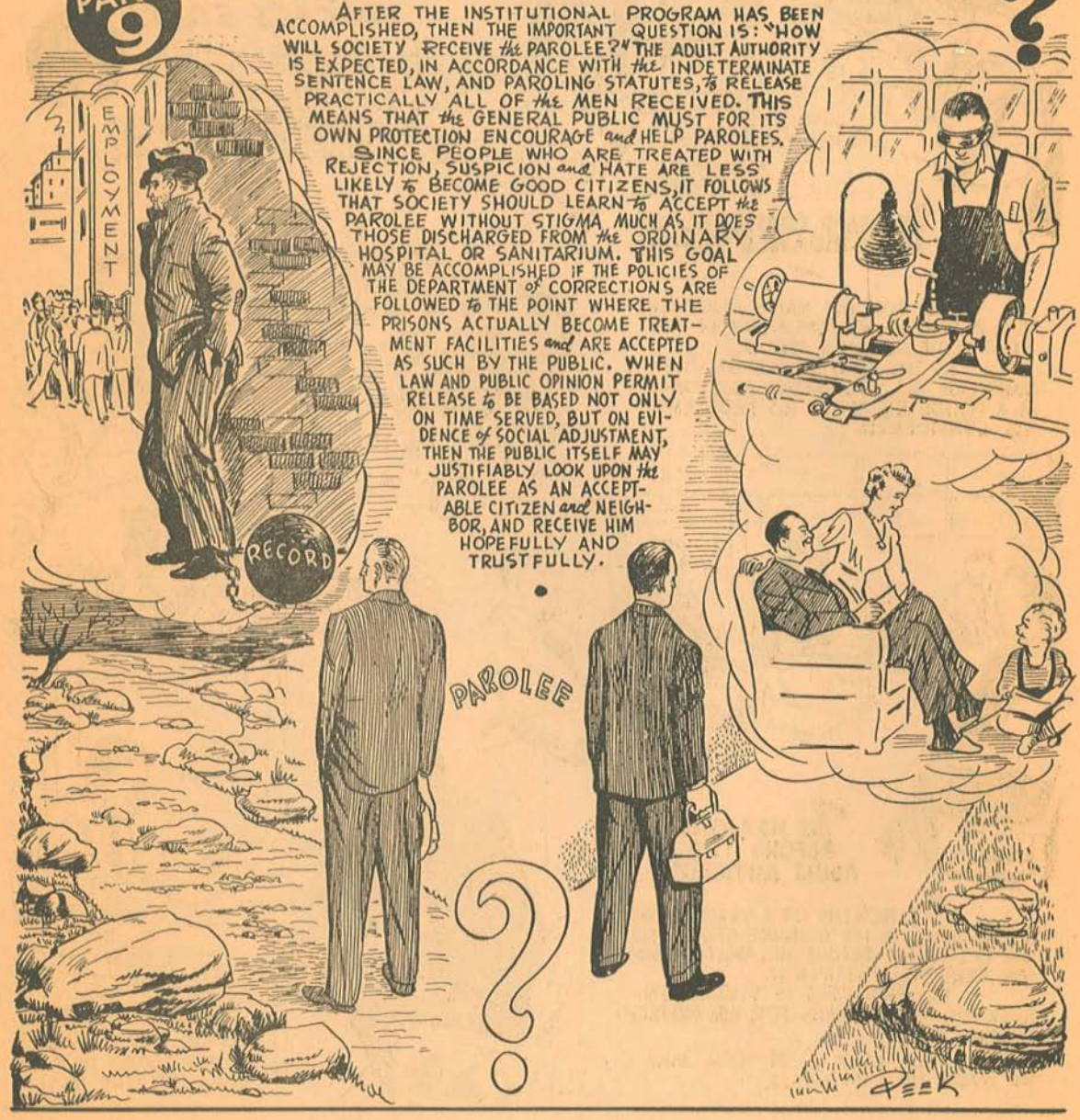
### The PAROLE OFFICER

REVIEWS THE GUIDANCE CENTER REPORT IN PLANNING FOR THE MAN.

# The GUIDANCE CENTER

PART 9

## SOCIETY AND THE PAROLEE — ?




AFTER THE INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, THEN THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS: "HOW WILL SOCIETY RECEIVE the PAROLEE?" THE ADULT AUTHORITY IS EXPECTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH the INDETERMINATE SENTENCE LAW, AND PAROLING STATUTES, to RELEASE PRACTICALLY ALL OF the MEN RECEIVED. THIS MEANS THAT the GENERAL PUBLIC MUST FOR ITS OWN PROTECTION ENCOURAGE and HELP PAROLEES. SINCE PEOPLE WHO ARE TREATED WITH REJECTION, SUSPICION and HATE ARE LESS LIKELY to BECOME GOOD CITIZENS, IT FOLLOWS THAT SOCIETY SHOULD LEARN to ACCEPT the PAROLEE WITHOUT STIGMA MUCH AS IT DOES THOSE DISCHARGED FROM the ORDINARY HOSPITAL OR SANITARIUM. THIS GOAL MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED IF THE POLICIES OF THE DEPARTMENT of CORRECTIONS ARE FOLLOWED to THE POINT WHERE THE PRISONS ACTUALLY BECOME TREATMENT FACILITIES and ARE ACCEPTED AS SUCH BY THE PUBLIC. WHEN LAW AND PUBLIC OPINION PERMIT RELEASE to BE BASED NOT ONLY ON TIME SERVED, BUT ON EVIDENCE of SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT, THEN THE PUBLIC ITSELF MAY JUSTIFIABLY LOOK UPON the PAROLEE AS AN ACCEPTABLE CITIZEN and NEIGHBOR, AND RECEIVE HIM HOPEFULLY AND TRUSTFULLY.